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CLASSIFICATION ~~SECRET~~COUNTRY East Germany REPORT TOPIC Military Information from Gera

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EVALUATION  PLACE OBTAINED 

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DATE OF CONTENT DATE OBTAINED  DATE PREPARED 23 February 1954REFERENCES PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) REMARKS This is UNEVALUATED Information

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1. On 4 February 1954, the Reuss Kaserne quartered an estimated 3,000 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets including some with artillery, signal or motor transport insignia. At about 1:45 p.m. on 20 January, 3 x 100-mm AT guns, truck  occupied by about 20 men and 3 prime movers entered the installation from the direction of Langenberg. The volume was followed by 3 x 100-mm AT guns, 3 prime movers, each occupied by 3 soldiers, 1 sedan, and 1 truck  at about 2:10 p.m. The prime movers and guns were heavily soiled and seemed  to have come from Zeitz Forest, from where artillery fire was heard throughout the morning of 20 January. At 1:20 p.m. on 25 January, 24 trucks, each occupied by about 20 to 24 soldiers  left the installation and headed for the Hainberg training area. On 2 February about 25 soldiers drilled with 3 x 100-mm AT guns and 30 other soldiers did maintenance work on about 10 trucks. On 4 February, about 600 soldiers in dress uniform left the installation toward town.

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2. On 4 February, the Panzer Kaserne in Tinz quartered about 350 soldiers who wore red-bordered black epaulets, including some with tank insignia. Between 1 and 4 February, 3 or 4 T-34/85 tanks and about 50 soldiers practiced driving on the training grounds south of the installation.

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3. On 31 January, the ~~Reuss~~ Kaserne still quartered troops with red-bordered black epaulets. On 25, 27 and 29 January, about 150 soldiers received individual training in the barracks area. Other soldiers practiced aiming with 6 to 10 AT guns.

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4. On 31 January, the Panzer Kaserne in Tinz quartered about 200 men. On 30 January, about 50 soldiers drilled in the barracks yard while other soldiers did entrenching work ~~or~~ constructed bridges in the other section of the yard.

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5. On 26 January, the Reuss Kaserne quartered about 3,800 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery or motor transport insignia. Some officers wore tank insignia. On 20 January, groups of 15 to 30 men drilled and practiced aiming. Ten

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trucks occupied by troops left the installation toward Derschwitz (sic). The EM were equipped with submachine guns and carbines. The column returned at nightfall.

During the night of 23 January, 3 prime movers towing 100-mm AT guns entered the barracks installation.

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6. On 26 January, the Panzer Kaserne in Tinz quartered about 500 men who wore red-bordered black epauletts with tank insignia. On 20 January, about 400 men fell in for roll call in the barracks area. Troops engaged in athletic exercises in groups. Other soldiers were seen marching from the tank garages to the ammunition dump.

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7. the Friedenssiedlung (settlement) south of Breitenbach was evacuated by the civilian population and occupied by units of the Soviet Army. Camouflaged tanks, AT guns, and trucks were parked in the nearby nurseries. They were guarded by sentries.

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Comment. the 308th Arty Brig in Gera up to late January 1954, and the unidentified tank training unit of the Eighth Gds Army in the Panzer Kaserne in Tinz. Information on firing practices of artillery and tank units in Zeitz Forest has repeatedly been received. Tank units of the 20th Gds Mecz Div and the 220th Gds Hv Tank SF Regt have practiced there in addition to the 308th Arty Brig. Paragraph 7 of the report tends to indicate that a permanent training ground has been established in Zeitz Forest. Breitenbach is located 9 km north of Lützen, north of Gera.

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